

Appl. No. 10/687,243
Amdt. dated April 19, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 23, 2005

Docket No. 58085-010202

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 15, 17-19 have been amended.

Applicants thank Examiner Hartman for the courtesy of the interview with Applicants' representative, Charles Berman, on April 6, 2005.

Claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15 and 17 have been amended to render them independent as suggested by the Examiner during the interview. Furthermore, the Examiner and Applicants' representative have agreed that the independent claims will be amended to further define what is meant by "priority." Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 15, 17-19 have been amended to redefine the relationship between "hierarchy" and "priority." Namely, that a hierarchy of patrons is developed utilizing rules that are not based on reservation times.

Applicants submit that Claims 1-19 are now condition for allowance.

Formal reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated February 23, 2005 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sim, U.S. Patent No. 6,529,786, in view of Maeda et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,987,420.

As agreed by the Examiner and Applicants' representative during the interview, "Sim teaches a hierarchy based on time, but does not teach a hierarchy of patrons per se. Maeda et al. briefly discusses 'priority ranking,' but does not discuss in any greater detail what is explicitly meant by this 'priority ranking.'"

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Sim in view of Maeda et al. does not render Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 15, 17-19 obvious.

Claims 11-14 depend from Claim 10, and therefore Claims 11-14 are not rendered obvious by Sim in view of Maeda et al. Similarly, Claims 2, 4 and 16 depend from Claim 1, and therefore Claims 2, 4 and 16 are not rendered obvious by Sim in view of Maeda et al. Accordingly,

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Applicants submit that Claims 1-19 are not rendered obvious by Sim in view of Maeda et al. and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants have complied with all requirements made in the above referenced communication. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should matters remain, which the Examiner believes could be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicants' undersigned agent.

Fee Calculation:

Extra Claim Fees		Extra Claims	Fee
Total Claims	19 - 20 = 0	x \$ 50.00	\$ 0.00
Independent Claims	12 - 3 = 9	x \$ 200.00	\$ 1,800.00
Multiple Dependent Claim		\$ 360.00	\$ 0.00
			Subtotal \$ 200.00
Additional Fees			
Surcharge – late filing fee			\$ 0.00
Extension for reply within the _____ month			\$ 0.00
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)			\$ 0.00
			Subtotal \$ 0.00
TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT			\$ 1,800.00

The Director is authorized to charge \$1,800.00 and any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s), or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account Number 50-2638, Deposit Account

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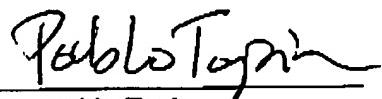
Name Greenberg Traurig, LLP. Please ensure that the Attorney Docket Number is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Respectfully submitted,

GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP

Date April 15, 2005

By _____



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